Under Special Component of SGRY, only foodgrains are provided to the States for calamity affected areas based on recommendation of a High Level Committee.

(b) and (c) SGRY covers all the districts of the country (except Delhi and Chandigarh). However, in 200 identified backward districts of the country, SGRY has been subsumed into National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) from 2006-2007. Rs. 2911.54 crores and 17 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allocated to the districts covered under SGRY in 2006-07. 4.4 lakh MTs of foodgrains have also been released to the calamity affected areas in the States of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during 2006-07.

Vacant positions in DRDAs

841. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) are the prime functionaries to implement poverty eradication programmes of the Centre and the States;

(b) whether DRDAs are short-staffed to the extent of 43 per cent of the positions on the average and 70 per cent of Group A posts;

(c) whether more than 80 per cent of the Group A position in Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and West Bengal remain vacant; and

(d) if so, whether the Centre has empowered the States to fill Group A posts by hiring technical professional on contract basis; if so, the action initiated by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The District Rural Development Agencies are not the implementing agencies. The District Rural Development Agency is visualized as a specialized and a professional agency capable of managing the anti-poverty programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development on the one hand and to effectively relate these to the overall effort of poverty eradication in the District. They are expected to coordinate with the line departments, the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the banks and other financial

institutions, the NGOs, as well as the technical institutions, with a view to gathering the support and resources required for poverty reduction effort in the district.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Centre has instructed the States to fill up the vacant sanctioned posts in Group 'A', 'B' & 'C' as per their recruitment rules by hiring technically qualified and experienced personnel on contract basis. State Governments are filling up the vacant posts in DRDAs as per the latest amendments and instructions issued in this regard.

Implementation of PMGSY in Rajasthan

842. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of PMGSY in Rajasthan, targets fixed and achievements made, year-wise;

(b) the number of habitations connected through PMGSY, since its inception in 2000, and total population benefited therefrom till date;

(c) the number of habitations still remaining to be connected and the time-frame therefor;

(d) the total financial investment in PMGSY, year-wise and whether Rajasthan got due share of CRF; and

(e) the total length of new roads constructed as well as upgraded, year-wise, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is being implemented in Rajasthan since the year 2000-01. Since inception till date projects valued at Rs. 4502.01 crore for 8865 road works to construct 30877.01 road length have been cleared against which Rs. 2627.13 crore have been released. 4769 road works involving 16819.97 km. of road length has been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 2317.23 crore have been incurred (up to October, 2006). Further, at the time of inception of the programme, there were 10995 elgible